

Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

White Mountain Apache Tribe, AZ

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

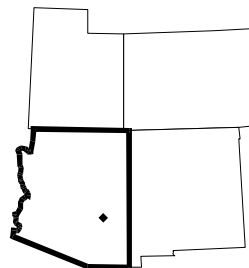
EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Since 1995, EPA has funded more than 200 Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the White Mountain Apache Indian Tribe for a Brownfields Pilot. The White Mountain Apache Tribe will apply the Pilot at its McNary Community, located along the northern boundary of the Fort Apache Indian Reservation in the White Mountains region of Arizona. The McNary Community has a population of approximately 400 people, and there are an additional 11,000 Tribal members and 500 non-Tribal members within 20 miles of the targeted site. The community has an unemployment rate greater than 40 percent, and more than 50 percent of the community lives in poverty.

McNary was established in the early 1920s when a private corporation leased 300 acres of Tribal trust land to construct a lumber mill and a neighboring town to house the corporation's employees. At the height of the mill's operations, the town had a population of approximately 3,000 people. When the mill closed in 1980, the town's population and its economic base collapsed. From 1995 to 1996, a tribally owned and operated timber company spent approximately \$100,000 to clean up asbestos and demolish the old powerhouse, which stood at the northern end of the site.

PILOT SNAPSHOT



*White Mountain Apache Tribe,
Arizona*

Date of Announcement:
March 1999

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The Pilot targets the former site of a lumber mill for assessment, cleanup, and possible redevelopment in keeping with the tribe's commitment to comprehensive community and environmental planning.

Contacts:

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Visit the EPA Region 9 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/brown/index.html>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

OBJECTIVES

The White Mountain Apache Tribe's objective is to revitalize the McNary Community and the surrounding area. Efforts are underway to develop a master development plan for the area that would capitalize on the potential scenic and wildlife values of the mill ponds, which have not been realized because of contamination concerns. The Pilot will serve this goal by targeting the former mill site for assessment, cleanup, and possible redevelopment.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this Pilot include:

- Designing an environmental assessment plan for the former mill site;
- Conducting sampling and analyzing results;
- Studying options for and preparing a site cleanup plan; and
- Working with the community to create a redevelopment scenario for the site.